

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00618 211838Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00

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R 211735Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9910

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LISBON 0618

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO, NATO

SUBJECT: GEN HAIG VISITS PORTUGAL

1. SACEUR VISITS PORTUGAL: NATO COMMANDER GEN ALEXANDER HAIG VISITED PORTUGAL JAN 18-20 AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT EANES, ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SACEUR VISIT INCLUDED:

-- VISIT TO SANTA MARGARDIA TRAINING CAMP, LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF NATO BRIGADE AND SOME SUB-UNITS;

-- DINNER HOSTED BY PRESIDENT EANES AND ATTENDED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE, CHIEFS OF THREE ARMED FORCES, AND THE AMBASSADOR;

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PAGE 02 LISBON 00618 211838Z

-- A NINETY-MINUTE WORK SESSION WITH PRESIDENT EANES AND THREE SERVICE CHIEFS TO DISCUSS NATO MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL;

PORTUGAL;

-- AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE.

2. MEDIA REACTION: THE VISIT RECEIVED HEAVY FAVORABLE COVERAGE. STATE TV PRIME-TIME EVENING NEWSCAST JAN 20 USED

FOUR-MINUTE FILMED REPORT FROM HAIG DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN WHICH HE NOTED WARSAW PACT'S ESSENTIALLY OFFENSIVE MODERNIZATION EFFORTS IN CONTRAST WITH NATO DEFENSIVE STANCE. TV REPORT ALSO INCLUDED HAIG RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHICH CLARIFIED THAT PORTUGUESE NATO BRIGADE WOULD ALWAYS BE UNDER PORTUGUESE COMMANDER, EVEN IF BRIGADE WERE INTEGRATED INTO OTHER NATO FORCES DURING CONFLICT. JAN 20-21 PRESS ALSO GAVE MAJOR PLAY TO PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS. SAMPLE HEADLINES: CENTER-RIGHT "O DIA" (JAN 21)--"SUPREME COMMANDER OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE ALERTS: THREATENING SITUATION IN WARSAW PACT CONTRASTS WITH DEFENSIVE NATURE OF NATO"; PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA" (JAN 20)--"I DISCUSSED MODERNIZATION OF YOUR ARMED FORCES, NATO COMMANDER FOR EUROPE SAID UPON DEPARTURE"; CENTER "O SECULO" (JAN 21)--"HAIG: WARSAW PACT HAS EMINENTLY OFFENSIVE CHARACTER"; PRO-COMMUNIST "DIARIO DE LISBOA" (JAN 20)"" "GENERAL HAIG RETURNED PLEASED WITH WHAT HE SAW."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, MILI, OVIP, PO, NATO, (HAIG, ALEXANDER)
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